



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Public Affairs Office
2400 Wright Street
Madison, WI 53704

Contact: Lt. Col. Tim Donovan
608-242-3050
Cell: 608-516-1777

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flight home scheduled Thursday for 32nd Military Police Company

The Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Military Police Company, Milwaukee and Madison, is expected to arrive at Volk Field Air National Guard base Thursday afternoon [July 22] after 16 months on active duty and about 14 months service in Iraq.

The unit's 150 soldiers are expected to land at the air base between 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Thursday. Gov. Jim Doyle is scheduled to lead an official welcoming party which will also include senior National Guard officials and the University of Wisconsin Marching Band. As many as 600 family members, friends and fellow Guard soldiers are also expected to be present at Volk Field.

Following an initial reunion with their families and a brief official "welcome home," the soldiers will travel to nearby Fort McCoy to begin about five days of demobilization processing.

The 32nd MP Company was ordered to active duty March 15, 2003 and deployed to Southwest Asia in early May. They were originally expected home in early May 2004, but in mid-April the company's soldiers were among 6,000 Guard and Reserve troops extended beyond the one year "boots on the ground" policy then in effect. The unit's long-awaited return began about a week ago when the soldiers moved from Iraq to Kuwait.

While in Iraq, the MP soldiers provided security in and around Baghdad, and also helped train the new civilian Iraqi police force. The unit suffered more injuries from hostile action than any Wisconsin National Guard unit since World War II. Twenty-three [corrected number] Purple Heart medals were awarded to 32nd Military Police Company soldiers, including one Purple Heart awarded to Spc. Michelle Witmer, New Berlin, who was the first female soldier killed in action in the 367-year history of the National Guard — nationwide.

— more —

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Following redeployment of the 32nd MP Company, the Wisconsin Guard will still have about 1,270 soldiers and airmen on active duty. Of those, approximately 230 are deployed overseas with more than 700 others who are eventually bound for overseas missions. Another 800 Wisconsin Army National Guard soldiers remain on alert for possible mobilization.

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Note to Editors and News Directors: News media are welcome to cover the return of the 32nd Military Police Company to Volk Field Thursday afternoon. The unit's flight is expected to arrive at the Air National Guard base sometime between 4 and 5:30 p.m. Volk Field is located in Juneau County at Exit 55 on Interstate Highways 90-94.

Following the aircraft's arrival, soldiers and their families will have about an hour together before the soldiers are bused to Fort McCoy to begin demobilization processing.

News media organizations wishing to cover the Volk Field arrival should call Lt. Col. Tim Donovan (608-242-3050 or Cell 608-516-1777) so arrangements can be made for access to the military installation. News media will not be permitted on the base unless arrangements have been made in advance.

AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL TIME IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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Related news release: [32nd Military Police Company expected home](#)

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